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PERIODICALS

Annals of Eugenics

November 1946, Vol. 13, Part 3.—*Records of eye colours for British populations and a description of a new eye-colour scale.*—By J. Grieve and G. M. Morant.—Classification of 177 subjects, by four different observers using three boxes of Martin's eye-colour scale, showed that only about 40 per cent of subjects were assigned the same grade by any pair of observers; the discrepancies were seldom more than one grade in either direction, and are thought to be due to the personal equations of the observers rather than to differences in the boxes. One observer provided comparisons between Martin's and Riddell's colour scales for 526 subjects, showing a general agreement but no exact coincidence of grades. A further 517 subjects, born in Britain or in one of the Dominions, were classified on Martin's scale by one observer. Their classification according to place of birth disclosed no differences of note between regions of England or between countries; no allowance was made for sex or age differences, but the total sample is almost certainly too small to disclose any small differences that may exist.

The authors conclude that a verbally defined scale of eye colours is unsatisfactory. They report the construction of a new scale, having certain advantages over Martin's, which is made of acrylic plastics and is so arranged that any one of the artificial eyes may be brought close to the eye of a subject.

The Inheritance of Premature Baldness in Men.—By H. Harris.—In a series of 900 men between 30 and 42 years of age, 120 showed premature baldness. Family data have been examined in relation to alternative hypotheses of single-factor dominance and recessivity, both autosomal and sex-linked, for the inheritance of the condition. The data show highly significant deviations from the numbers expected on every hypothesis except that of simple dominance; hypotheses that late and premature baldness are determined by the same gene are likewise contradicted. No evidence on female baldness is presented.

A Contribution to the Genetics of Hair Colour in Man.—By C. D. Lee and L. S. Penrose.—Acid-soluble red pigment has been extracted from hair samples of 55 men and women, and the amount of pigment has been estimated colorimetrically. The correspondence between hair colour and amount of pigment was not very close: white-haired and albino subjects showed normal pigment concentrations. There was little indication of any consistent sex difference; 24 sib-pairs showed an appreciable correlation between sibs, suggesting an hereditary influence.

The Interaction of Nature and Nurture.—By J. B. S. Haldane.—All geneticists, and especially

those concerned with economic problems of plant and animal breeding, should study Haldane's very clear statement of the logic of interaction. Much of it may appear "obvious" after it has been read, but lack of appreciation of these obvious facts has often been the cause of confused reasoning. Haldane describes in detail all possible types of interaction between two classifications, and shows how the type of interaction may be altered by change in the magnitude of the overall difference between levels of factors. He mentions briefly the extension of the argument to several factors, each at several levels, but this is too complicated for full discussion.

The paper ends with illustrations of the application of the ideas to problems of agriculture and eugenics. The importance of maintaining genetic diversity in order that the breeder may be able to respond to changes in the environment of a plant or animal is emphasized. "We are not justified in condemning a genotype absolutely," says Haldane, "unless we are sure that some other genotype exists which would excel it by all possible criteria in all possible environments," and this prerequisite of absolute condemnation can seldom be found.

A Further Note on Polydactyly in Mice.—By S. B. Holt and M. E. Wright.—Evidence is presented that polydactyly reported in three different stocks of mice may be attributed to the same gene.

D. J. FINNEY.

Human Fertility

June 1946, Vol. 11, No. 2.—*Adolescent Sterility in the Human Female.*—By M. F. Ashley Montague.—Some fifteen years ago Hartmann suggested that the human adolescent female probably had a period of relative sterility analogous to that seen in young female monkeys and the recorded observations of a number of reliable ethnologists (notably Rivers, Malinowski, Fortune, Hogbin, Elwin, Ford, Kaberry, Mountford and Harvey, Mills, R. and C. Berndt) strongly support this contention. The facts observed by these workers strongly suggest that among primitive peoples there exists a period of adolescent infertility, since there is little or no evidence that abortion or contraception is practised by them. The author concludes that in such communities, where there is a large measure of free and easy sexual congress between adolescent males and females before marriage, there must be a physiological period of adolescent infertility to account for the rarity of premarital conceptions and births; and he sees no reason to doubt that this applies to the human race in general.

September 1946, Vol. 11, No. 3.—*Studies on Impaired Fertility in the Male.*—By Richard Hammen, M.D.—Dr. Hammen here presents in brief the results of his investigations into the problem of male infertility as elucidated by examination of the seminal fluid. The full report on his studies was published in 1944 as a special supplement to Vol. 24 of *Acta Obstetricia et Gynecologica Scandinavica*, and it covered the results of the examination of 925 male partners of barren matings and of a special group of 32 men, 18 of whom were known to be fertile and 14 of whom had marked clinical impairment of fertility. A total of 1,184 seminal examinations were carried out on these 957 men; 75 per cent of the men were between 25 and 35 years of age and in 65 per cent of the marriages the childlessness was of more than three years' duration—despite the fact that more than 50 per cent of the couples had never practised any form of contraception. Among couples who had used birth control for a time *coitus interruptus* was the method most commonly employed, the next commonest being the condom; an occlusive cap had only been used by 6 per cent of couples.

Dr. Hammen refers to his complete article for details of the technique employed in carrying out the seminal examinations, but gives a summary of his findings with regard to volume, appearance, viscosity, motility, viability, sperm count and morphology. In his discussion he brings out the necessity for revising the usually accepted standards of normality. He makes the significant statement "that a diagnosis of absolute sterility is only justified in cases of azoospermia. . . . There is no foundation for the common view that the capacity for fertilization suddenly ceases when, for instance, the sperm count falls below 60 million per cc., or when the frequency of abnormal cells exceeds 20 per cent; on the contrary there appears to be a gradual transition from high to low degrees of fertility." In the light of the commonly accepted standards for normality only about 3 per cent of the specimens in the series of cases examined by Dr. Hammen could be graded as "normal," which in his view means that in fact the standard needs adjusting to a lower level. He is inclined to think that the morphological examination of the sperm is the most important part of seminal analysis, because it is likely to be "more stable than other factors." Nevertheless, he considers it important that the examination should cover all the factors mentioned above because, although one defect is commonly accompanied by others, this is not universally true. Estimation of pH he thinks can be dispensed with; vital staining and metabolism examinations need further study before their clinical usefulness can be assessed. His summing up is worth quoting in full: "The results of our investigations indicate the need for a change in the attitude of the physician to

the sterile couple. For one thing, there is no reason to let a married couple wait too long before the proper examination is undertaken. Should married life with a normal frequency and mode of coitus not result in pregnancy within one year, it is highly probable that the fertility of the couple is impaired and examination should be undertaken. We gain the advantage that the treatment is instituted in time so that the chances of conception are provided while the patients are still young, that is, before the question of age itself, especially in the case of a woman, begins to appear as a factor in the inhibition of fertility.

"The examination, furthermore, should not be discontinued at the first disclosure of an irregularity which may afford an acceptable explanation of the sterility. All sterility impairing factors should be looked for and treated.

"For the same reason, the examination of the female partner should not be discontinued even if the seminal fluid of the husband shows impaired fertility. It should be carried through and treatment of the woman instituted if indicated. This is important in view of the fact that elimination of possible fertility impairing factors in her organism will increase the chances of fertilization for the sperm cells of the husband. Therapy should be adjusted to deal with all the fertility impairing factors in both husband and wife and it should be realized by the physician as well as by the patient that this may require a great deal of patience."

Experience with Artificial Insemination.—By I. Halbrecht, M.D.—At a sterility clinic in Tel Aviv, Dr. Halbrecht has had the opportunity of carrying out artificial insemination in 147 cases, and this brief report on the type of case and the results obtained is of considerable interest.

1. In 80 cases artificial insemination was instituted because of gross seminal inadequacy in the husband, and in all these cases fluid from fertile donors was used. 37 of the women conceived, 20 were still under treatment and 3 had conceived subsequently as the result of artificial insemination carried out elsewhere.

2. In 4 cases artificial insemination was used because of various coital difficulties (hypospadias, premature ejaculation or vaginismus), and in these the husband's semen was employed. One woman conceived while insemination was being carried out; 1 conceived later as the result of normal coitus, and 2 were still under treatment.

3. In 57 cases insemination with the husband's semen was carried out as an experimental procedure over a period from 2 to 4 cycles. In these cases no very obvious cause for the sterility had been found in the wives; 40 of the husbands were regarded as having normal semen; in 15 the counts were below 10 million per cc., and in 2 there were over 50 per cent abnormal spermatozoa. Only one woman became pregnant during the time insemination was being carried

out; during the two years since discontinuing artificial insemination 8 of the patients conceived normally. In 25 of the unsuccessful cases insemination with donor's semen was carried out over a number of cycles without producing a single pregnancy. On the contrary when the semen from 25 of the men in this group, who had failed to produce a pregnancy in their own wives, was used for inseminating women in the first group 9 conceptions resulted.

4. In 4 cases of habitual abortion where other forms of treatment had failed, artificial insemination from donor semen was tried, so far without success.

5. In 2 cases A.I.D. was employed because of heredity disease in the husband and in both cases the woman conceived.

Of the 44 women who conceived while they were being artificially inseminated, 30 had given birth to healthy infants, 4 miscarried early in pregnancy and 10 have not yet been delivered. Of the infants 20 were males and 10 females.

MARGARET HADLEY JACKSON.

Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology

July-August 1946, Vol. 37, No. 2.—The possible effects of military training and combative experience on the individual is discussed by Michael Hakeem. He points out that whilst the idea that criminality may result from habituation to a mode of behaviour inculcated and demanded by military service has not been arrived at after careful study of reliable data it has been used as an explanation for criminal behaviour. The argument appears to be that the armed forces have taken law-abiding, peace-loving, non-aggressive individuals from their homes and have trained them to kill, to be aggressive and to hate, and that if they are to discontinue this type of behaviour they must be reconditioned to civil life.

Hakeem considered 510 first admissions to a penitentiary during a period of two years and compared 125 of them who were ex-service men with others. He divided their crimes into those against property and against the person. The data did not show that the crimes of the ex-service men were of the violent type more frequently than would be expected. The crimes of the ex-service men and those of men without military training showed similar distribution among the various types of crime. A qualitative appraisal of certain aspects of the crimes against the person committed by the ex-service men showed no difference when compared with the same type of crimes committed by the prisoners who had no record of military service.

The writer points out that the commission of a sensational crime by an ex-service man which is characterized by an unusual brutality or other arresting feature is often regarded as *prima facie*

evidence of his military training, although such crimes occur in ordinary civilian life. And he modestly concludes an interesting article by stating his point is not that military training, army life and combat experience may not have some relationship to criminality, but that such a relationship has not been exactly formulated, demonstrated and proved, and that something other than logical assumptions and *a priori* reasoning are needed to prove the existence of such a relationship.

September-October 1946, Vol. 37, No. 3.—Dr. Benjamin Karpman contributes an article on *Felonious Assault Revealed as a Symptom of Abnormal Sexuality*, and refers to the fact that the conventional and legal classification of crime is essentially based on the direction of the crime and the person or the object against whom the crime is committed, whilst ignoring the source of the crime. He states that psychiatry is able to submit data which show that the legal classification of crime has no basis in reality and that criminals should be classified and charged on the basis of motivation and behaviour. He reminds us that what appears to be on the surface a predatory crime may turn out to have a motivation that is entirely non-predatory. The case of a youth aged eighteen is recorded who was arrested for stabbing in the neck a girl he did not know in a cinema. A psychogenetic study suggested that the crime was rooted in repressed traumatic memories of sexual relations between the youth's parents, whilst his apparently psychopathic tendencies were largely the result of the destructive suggestions implanted in his mind by a mentally abnormal father. The article illustrates the manner in which an expert examination may tend to elucidate a criminal problem. The reviewer has elsewhere suggested that for practical purposes the medical classification of crime should be based upon three factors, *instinctual*—acquisitive, sexual, aggressive, parental, gregarious; *historical*—accidental, occasional, habitual; *mental*—normal, subnormal, mental defectiveness, psychopathic personality, psychoneurotic, psychotic. To classify on these lines an offender as, say, an acquisitive-habitual-normal, or as an occasional-sexual-psychopathic personality tends to present a realistic diagnosis which can be elaborated for psychiatric purposes by referring to the subgroups of the abnormal mental states.

W. NORWOOD EAST.

Social Forces

October 1946, Vol. 1, No. 6.—*Courtship as a Social Institution in the United States, 1930 to 1945.*—By Donald L. Taylor.—There has been little scientific study of courtship. Information for this paper has been sought in available publications, through interviews and observations, and the conclusions drawn are but tentative.

The new courtship patterns are concerned with the need to express the nascent interest in heterosexual affairs, and to adapt the sexual urge to the changing culture; and the need for direction in selecting a mate. Those patterns farthest removed from the mores of society alter the most. The moral code, relating to sex, is that of the last century, and actual practices are quite different.

Courtship differs from other institutions on some points. For instance there are no patterns for entrance into courtship. It lacks organizations of its own to promote its goals, and ceremonies to supplement its activities. It also possesses little control of its material aspects.

Many courtship patterns conflict with the components of culture with which they deal. There are problems of compatibility and consistency, and the causes seem to be the dependence of courtship on other institutions, and the fact that it is still in the process of development. New patterns may be accepted much more rapidly in the future.

JANE ROBERTSON-RITCHIE.

Aging—A Family Problem.—By W. R. Stanford.—The increase in average span of life has increased the problems of therapeutic medicine. The chief problem is to keep the person healthy in old age. The solutions are many and varied, and must take effect throughout life and even before birth, starting with some degree of application of our present knowledge of eugenics; then care during childhood, especially removal of focal infection, is needed. The stresses of adolescence need care, and venereal disease and tuberculosis are best treated by social prophylactic measures. Fifty years plus is usually regarded as the real aging period, when, in addition to the infectious diseases, one is more subject to the cardiovascular diseases, to carcinoma and to diabetes. Dietary deficiencies may occur, either through inability to afford a full diet, or through a finicky appetite, or through physiological inability to absorb the food substances. Various psychoses may intervene, such as

the senile dementia of arterio-sclerosis or the "lost" state of mind that supervenes when a previously happy person is jerked out of a reasonably happy existence by the break-up of his home.

The medical practitioner should investigate all aspects of the patient's living conditions, including his hobbies, and advise alteration where necessary; as Osler said, "live in the present, do not carry yesterday's troubles over into to-day, and do not borrow tomorrow's troubles." Examples of suitable occupations are woodcarving, reading, fishing, golf, draughts, chess and painting.

Finally it is suggested that physical education should be carried on throughout the span of life.

December 1946, Vol. 25, No. 2—*Ernest R. Groves and His Work.*—By Howard W. Odum.—The Managing Editor of *Social Forces* has written a short informal appreciation of the work of Professor Groves (Professor of Sociology, and Research Professor in the Institute for Research in Social Science in the University of North Carolina), who died on August 29th, 1946. Professor Groves was editor of the Department on Marriage and the Family in *Social Forces*. Dr. Odum refers in particular to the emphasis that Professor Groves always placed on the need for a course in preparation for marriage; which course, largely owing to his efforts, has become a conventional part of the programme of American Colleges. Credit is also due to Professor Groves for his exposition of the family as a social institution. This will be carried a step further by the posthumous publication of his book *The Contemporary American Family*, since this work, together with his previously published *The American Woman*, are substantial contributions to the understanding of American society. In all his work "he never lost sight of the social values of the individual."

A bibliography of his work is published, including the titles of books published prior to 1927.

D. R.-R.

PHYSIOLOGICAL ZOÖLOGY

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By T. F. TSUI, J. CHU and S. PAI, National University of Chekiang Meitan, Kweichow, China.

THE EFFECT OF PEANUT OIL ON THE DESICCATION OF DIAPAUSE AND POST-DIAPAUSE PUPÆ OF THE MOTH, *CALLOSAMIA PROMETHEA* DRURY. By Daniel Ludwig, New York University.

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